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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000858

SIPDIS

FOR WHA/CCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/06/2015

TAGS: PREL ETTC CU EZ

SUBJECT: LIBERTAD ACT: CZECH REPUBLIC

REF: A. PRAGUE 833

¶B. PRAGUE 832

¶C. PRAGUE 814

¶D. 2004 PRAGUE 1733

Classified By: Pol-Econ Counselor Mike Dodman for reasons 1.4 b+d

¶1. (C) As discussed in ref D reply to the previous Libertad Act tasking, the Czech Republic is one of the staunchest European defenders of Cuban dissidents and a proponent of U.S. policy towards Cuba. Refs A - C detail Czech efforts to toughen the EU policy towards Cuba in a manner that will support dissidents and civil society without rewarding the Castro regime with unearned recognition. Ref B discusses current GOCR assistance to support civil society in Cuba. In addition, Czech NGOs and leading Czech figures, notably including former President Vaclav Havel, regularly address the plight of Czech dissidents and the lack of freedom on the island; this featured prominently in a speech Havel delivered May 24 at the Library of Congress.

¶2. (U) According to Czech National Bank data, there was no Czech investment in Cuba as of March 2005.

CABANISS